DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 128 235 SO 009 220

TITLE	Whatever Happened to Debbie Kraft? An Awareness Game for Educators, Counselors, Students, and Parents.
INSTITUTION	Feminists Northwest, Seattle, Wash.
PUB DATE	75
NOTE	27p.; For related documents, see SO 009 221 and 222
AVAILABLE FROM	Feminists Northwest, 5038 Nicklas Place NE, Seattle, Washington 98105 ($0.75 paper cover)
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.83 Plus Postage. HC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Affirmative Action; *Career Awareness; *Career Choice; Career Exploration; Case Studies; Counseling Effectiveness; Cultural Awareness; Decision Making; *Decision Making Skills; *Educational Games; *Females; Games; Guidance Counseling; Guidance Objectives; Problem Solving; Secondary Education; Self Concept; Sex Role; Sex Stereotypes

ABSTRACT

An educational game relating to alternate career and life-style choices of an 18-year-old female high-school senior comprises this booklet. The game is designed to aid young women in their attempt to make decisions about their lives. Choices offered at the beginning of the game are: You decide to go to college in the fall, You decide to get a job, You decide to marry your boyfriend, and You decide to spend your summer at the beach and wait until next fall to make a decision. Each choice is followed by several options, all requiring the player to turn to another page and encounter yet another set of options. All game options eventually lead to seven questions: (1) Do you feel the failure was Debbie's fault? (2) What do you think will happen to Debbie next? (3) What groups and agencies in Debbie's community could have given her information, encouragement, and moral support? (4) How could Debbie's situation have changed? Who could have changed it? (5) How could Debbie's parents, teachers, and counselors have prepared her to become an independent, confident, self-fulfilled woman? (6) How could they have helped her avoid getting trapped? (7) In what ways are people working for social change so that young women can have different life options? Bibliographic sources are cited. (Author/DB)

****
* Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished *
* materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort *
* to obtain the best copy available. Nevertheless, items of marginal *
* reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality *
* of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available *
* via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not *
* responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions *
* supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original. *
****

Whatever Happened to Debbie Kraft ?

ED128235

An awareness game for educators, counselors, students. and parents

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL BY MICROFICHE ONLY HAS BEEN GRANTED TO
Deirdre O'Neill
TO ERIC AND ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING UNDER AGREEMENTS WITH THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION. FURTHER REPRODUCTION OUTSIDE THE ERIC SYSTEM REQUIRES PERMISSION OF THE COPYRIGHT OWNER

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

Developed by Feminists Northwest
5038 Nicklas Pl. N.E.
Seattle, Wa. 98105
(206) 524-4973

SP 009 220

Copyright © Feminists Northwest 1975

INTRODUCTION

In this game, you do not go through the booklet page by page. Instead, you find what page to turn to next by making a choice and following the instructions of that choice. As you play the game and follow Debbie's life, you will be turning back and forth through the booklet. Eventually you will come to the end of the game.

At the beginning of the game, Debbie Kraft is a high school senior with no special advantages of income or family background. She is an ordinary person. What happens to Debbie is the kind of thing that happens to many young women as they try to make decisions about their lives.

The questions at the end of the game can be used to start discussion about what happened to Debbie and why, or what could have happened to Debbie, and how.

There is a useful bibliography listing resources on counseling and working women on pages 23 and 24.

* * * * * * * *

Feminists Northwest is a non-profit education group committed to ending sexism in school and society. We developed "Whatever Happened to Debbie Kraft?" to encourage teachers, counselors, and students to overcome the sexism often present in the school curriculum and in school guidance programs. We hope you will share with us your experiences, reactions, and criticism as you use this booklet.

Audra Adelberger, Sally Mackle,
Deirdre O'Neill, & Susan Schacher

Our thanks to Norma Fried Rietzke for printing.
(4127 Greedwood Ave. N., Seattle 98103, 206-634-2856)

You are Debbie Kraft, age 18, and you are two months away from high school graduation. All through senior year, you have talked with your friends about how great it will be to finally get a job and make some money. Now you are faced with summer ahead and you have to decide what to do. Your parents are hoping you will go to college in the fall. Your boyfriend, Jim, 20, says he has a good job and wants to marry you. You really don't know what to do. But time is running out and you have to make a decision.

If you were Debbie, 18, and about to graduate from high school what would you be likely to do? Please select one of the responses below. Then turn to the page indicated.

A. You decide to go to college in the fall...
.....turn to PAGE 7.

B. You decide to get a job.....
.....turn to PAGE 3.

C. You decide to marry your boyfriend, Jim....
.....turn to PAGE 6.

D. You decide to spend your summer at the beach and wait until next fall to make a decision...
.....turn to PAGE 8.

Please go back to PAGE 1 and select a page number to turn to.

You decide to look for a job. You check the want ads, go to interviews, and after two weeks you have several options. Which will you choose?

A. A good restautant needs a waitress. Your good looks and bubbly personality get you the job .....turn to PAGE 16.

B. There are some newspaper ads for factory jobs. You choose one .....turn to PAGE 18.

C. A large bank gave you a battery of tests. Because you scored very high in all areas, you were offered a position as teller in their management-trainee program. The program plus extra schooling will eventually enable you to become a member of management and to aspire to a high-paying, responsible job..... .....turn to PAGE 4.

D. Your older brother tells you about a job-training program that he went through. You decide to look into it.....turn to PAGE 19.

E. An insurance company has an opening for you as a clerk. Since your typing is rusty, that is the best you can get. But there's a possibility to work up to a typist position.. .....turn to PAGE 14.

F. None of these options appeal to you. You decide to marry Jim.....turn to PAGE 6.

You tell Jim you have decided to take the bank-teller job in the management-trainee program. He tells you to do whatever you want, that he wants you to be happy. He adds that he doesn't like pushy, aggressive business women, that he wants a "nice feminine woman" who knows how to make a man "feel like a man."

He also adds that you will have to spend many long hours at work, taking courses, and doing homework. He says he still wants to marry you but he wonders how you can be a good wife and mother if you're spending all that time on your job. You tell him that you want to be a good wife and mother, but you want to have a job too. He says you're being unrealistic to think you can do both.

You think things over and decide to:

A. Marry Jim. It's more important to be truly feminine, a real woman, than to take such a demanding job.....turn to PAGE 6.

B. Take the job at the bank...turn to PAGE 20.

You take a job sewing pillows at a factory. You have to work really fast. The work is boring and it doesn't pay well. When you get home, you're too tired to enjoy being with your child. Your boss tells you to report for the evening shift but you can't find anyone to take care of the baby. This is the last straw: you quit your job to look for something better.

A. You decide to try office work..turn to PAGE 17.

B. You decide to try a job-training program for a higher paying job.....turn to PAGE 9.

C. If you have already exhausted the above options.....turn to PAGE 11.

You marry Jim. At first you are happy; within a year you have a much-loved baby. But one day you realize that you are bored with housework, cooking, diapers, and day-time television. You look for something else to do.

At the height of your discontent, Jim is laid off. You decide to look for a job, and you find several possibilities:

A. A good restaurant needs a waitress. Your good looks and bubbly personality get you the job.....turn to PAGE 15.

B. There are a few factory jobs advertised in the newspaper.....turn to PAGE 5.

C. A large bank gave you a battery of tests. Because you scored very high in all areas, you were offered a position as teller in their management-trainee program. The program plus extra schooling will eventually enable you to become a member of management and aspire to a high-paying, responsible job .....turn to PAGE 12.

D. You hear about a training-program for high-paying jobs. That sounds good..... .....turn to PAGE 9.

E. An insurance company has a job for you as a clerk. Since your typing is rusty, that is the best you can get. But there is a possibility to work up to a typist position.. .....turn to PAGE 17.

You have decided to go to college. Your school counselor tells you that you haven't met the entrance requirements for a four-year college, and says that you should have come to see him earlier.

You then decide:

A. To enroll at the community college.....
.....turn to PAGE 13.

B. To look into the job-training program that your older brother went through .....
.....turn to PAGE 19.

C. That going to school is too much of a hassle and you will look for a job.....
.....turn to PAGE 3.

D. To marry your boyfriend, Jim.....
.....turn to PAGE 6.

E. To enjoy your summer and put off a decision until fall.....turn to PAGE 8.

You have a great time at the beach. But before you know it, you are home again. It is time to decide.

A. You go to community college..turn to PAGE 13.

B. You look for a job.....turn to PAGE 3.

C. You agree to marry Jim .....turn to PAGE 6.

At the job-training center, you learn that carpenters make over $9 an hour. You've always enjoyed working with your father's tools so you decide to train to become a carpenter.

The counselor is amazed that a married woman with a child would want to become a carpenter. He informs you that construction contractors don't want to hire women, and the carpenters' union isn't admitting women.

Jim is horrified: what man would want to be married to a carpenter? Your parents worry that you'll hurt yourself with the power tools.

For a while you are angry at all the people who talk about "equal opportunity for women." The reality is that nobody supports you. You lose confidence in your ability to become a carpenter.

A. You decide to look for a different kind of job .....turn to PAGE 6...
...and choose another option.

B. If you've exhausted your options on PAGE 6, ...turn to PAGE 11.

So you took the job as waitress. When Jim found out, he left you.

Now you have a child to support, a job with no future, and no man. You may want to marry again, but it will be difficult since few men want to support another man's child.

Do you want to try for something better?
Go back to PAGE 1 and choose again.

Have you exhausted your choices on PAGE 1?
Turn to PAGE 11.

The game is over. You feel trapped, discouraged, and bitter.

Do you feel the failure was Debbie's fault? Why or why not?

What do you think will happen to Debbie next?

How could Debbie's situation have changed? Who could have changed it?

How could Debbie's parents, teachers, and counselors have prepared her to become an independent, confident, self-fulfilled woman?

How could they have helped Debbie to avoid getting trapped?

What groups and agencies in Debbie's community could have given her information, encouragement, and moral support?

In what ways are people working for social change so that young women can have different, more meaningful life options than the ones Debbie faced?

Please see the Bibliography on pages 23 and 24 for useful materials on counseling and working women.

You choose the job at the bank. You tell your husband, thinking he will be happy. Instead he mumbles something about pushy, aggressive business women, and says he likes nice "feminine" women.

He also points out that you will have to spend long hours at the bank and in night classes, not to mention homework. Finally, he points to your beautiful child and says, "How do you suppose our baby will turn out with its mother away from home pursuing her career? Babysitters can't replace a mother's love."

Your mother and your mother-in-law both tell you horror stories about children they know who were ruined because their mothers worked. And your mother-in-law discreetly takes you aside to ask whether you had thought of how Jim's ego would suffer if his wife might someday make more money than he.

You think things over, then

A. You decide not to take the bank job.....
.....turn back to PAGE 6
...and choose again.

B. In spite of all your doubts, you take the bank job.....turn to PAGE 21.

You've enrolled at the community college, but money is becoming a problem. You have a part-time job at a drive-in hamburger place, but it's not enough. You parents can help you, but only for one more term.

You're doing well in your courses, but studying takes up lots of time. Your boyfriend, Jim, begins to complain that he might well find another girl.

Discouraged and nearly broke, unwilling to take a loan and saddle yourself with debts, you decide to drop out of school for awhile. So you

A. Look for a job with the hope of returning to school when you save some money.....
.....turn to PAGE 3.

B. Get married .....turn to PAGE 6.

You've taken a clerical job at an insurance company. It pays $400 a month to start. Time flies and you are kept so busy filing and sorting forms that you rarely have time to practice your typing. Your chances for promotion get slimmer and slimmer.

Two years later, you are making only $500 a month. Doing clerical work and serving the boss coffee is a drag. You hate your job and would love to quit. So you

A. Decide to change jobs....go back to PAGE 3
....and choose again.

B. Decide to quit working and get married....
.....turn to PAGE 6.

You've become a waitress. You are given the night shift. You are also told to wear a short, sexy dress. Your husband objects. You begin to quarrel. You tell him that since he can't find a good job he has no right to complain: you, at least are making decent money, for a woman anyway.

So you decide to

A. Ignore Jim's foolishness and keep the waitress job. After all, your family needs the money... .....turn to PAGE 10.

B. Look for another job .....go back to PAGE 6 ...and choose again.

After only a few years as a waitress, you are getting tired out. You realize that you are losing your looks and getting too old. The boss wants young, good-looking chicks, and you no longer qualify.

A. You decide to marry Jim....turn to PAGE 6.

B. You decide to look for another job.....
.....turn back to PAGE 3
...and choose again.

You've taken a clerical job at an insurance company. Time flies and you are kept so busy filing and sorting forms that you rarely have time to practice typing. Your chances for a promotion to a typing job get slimmer and slimmer.

A few years later, you are making only $500 a month. Serving coffee to your husband and your boss is a double drag. You hate your job but your husband still hasn't found as good a job as he had when you were first married. You're still young, but you're stuck in a dead-end job.

If you aren't satisfied with this conclusion, go back to PAGE 6 and try again.

Have you run out of options on PAGE 6? .....
.....turn to PAGE 11.

You take a job sewing pillows at a factory. At the end of six months your back aches and your ears hurt from the noise of the power machines. You're expected to work really fast, but you're making only $2.25 an hour. You see ahead of you years of boring, meaningless work. You quit your job to look for something better.

A. You decide to try a job-training program for a better-paying job....turn to PAGE 19.

B. You want to work in a quieter place so you take a job as a clerk in an insurance company .....turn to PAGE 14.

C. You think that getting more education will help you get a better job so you enroll in community college.....turn to PAGE 13.

At the job-training center, a counselor asks you what you're interested in. You remember that you've always enjoyed working in the woodshop in the basement of your house. You decide to become a carpenter.

The counselor is very surprised. He wonders why you want to do heavy, dirty work. He tells you that only two other women have been through the carpentry training program-- and the men in the program gave them a hard time. He suggests that you take a bank-teller job which has a good management-training program.

Neither Jim, your parents, or your friends see any good reasons for you to become a carpenter. You don't think you can do it on your own so you decide not to fight. Instead,

A. You take the counselor's advice and accept the bank job.....turn to PAGE 4.

B. You decide to look for another "woman's job" .....go back to PAGE 3 ...and try again.

You took the job at the bank. So Jim broke up with you. You begin to have doubts about your "femininity," and worry that you will become the kind of aggressive, "castrating" woman your friends have all warned you about. But you also need to work, and you want a fulfilling, long-term job.

You feel torn in two. To be womanly -- and you do want to be womanly-- you think you had better not keep such a challenging job. But on the other hand, you want to feel that you're using your potential, your talents, and energies. You can see no way to be both truly feminine and a management trainee.

No matter what you do, you will be unhappy and guilt-ridden.

If this is not the ending you had hoped for, go back to PAGE 1 and choose again.

If you've already exhausted other possibilities on PAGE 1 ....turn to PAGE 11.

You take the bank job and begin happily. However, after several months, the strain of the job plus night classes plus trying to keep up a home and be a mother to your child begins to take its toll.

Your husband has never been happy with your decision to take the bank job, and as a result he has done little or nothing around the house to lighten your load. Whenever your child is out of sorts or acts up, Jim blames you.

Neither Jim's family nor your family offers you any encouragement. In fact, they often make jokes about "Debbie's Big Career."

Your own friends are not critical, but it's plain they can't understand why you are knocking yourself out for some far-distant reward.

You find it harder and harder to keep going. At last,

A. You quit the bank job. Since your family still needs money, you look for other paying work.....turn to PAGE 6..
...and try again.

B. You can no longer cope. You see no way out, no way to be true to yourself as a person, a wife, a mother, and a wage-earner. You give up .....turn to PAGE 11.

C. You think about walking out on your husband, family, and friends. But you wonder if "running away" can really solve your problems.
If you do NOT walk out, turn to PAGE 11.
If you DO leave, ...turn to PAGE 22.

So you've walked out.

We seem to have come to a new and different topic: What happens to the woman who leaves everything to find herself.

Someday we might write a game about her.

But for now: please start over on PAGE 1.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Anything You Want to Be," (8 min. black & white film) humorously depicts the dilemma facing a high school woman... with not so funny consequences. (Rental from University of Washington Audio-Visual; or free from Educational Service District No. 110, in Seattle, phone AT-4-3660)

California Commission on the Status of Women has prepared a packet of materials for school counselors. Included are sensitivity games, visual aids, discussion guides, and a list of resources designed to provide counselors with tools to help young women "sort out values, establish priorities, and make good decisions in a shifting world." State of California Documents Section, P.O. Box 20191, Sacramento, Cal. 95820.

Careers for Women in the '70's series. Includes leaflets explaining the occupational qualifications and opportunities in such fields as engineering, optometry, urban planning, etc. Women's Bureau, U.S. Dept of Labor, 4113 Federal Office Building, 909 First Ave, Seattle, WA 98174.

Gardner, Jo-Ann. "Sexist Counseling Must Stop." Personnel and Guidance Journal. 49:9. May 1971. pp. 705-713.

Hansen, L. Sunny. "We Are Furious (Female), but We Can Shape Our Own Development." Personnel and Guidance Journal. Oct 1972. pp. 87-93.
The author argues that "counselors... must be key agents in developing and releasing women's potentials through the public school, college, and vocational school settings in which they work-- specifically through counselor intervention with teachers in curriculum." She suggests different forms of awareness-building programs at each educational level, as well as media and game materials. This article is useful to counselors, teachers, and principals at all levels of education.

Mitchell, Edna. "What About Career Education for Girls?" Educational Leadership. Dec 1972. pp. 233-6.

Mommies at Work. Eve Merriam. primary level. (45¢ if ordered on school stationery) Scholastic Books, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 07632.

Planning for Free Lives. Curriculum materials for combatting sexism in home economics, family living, and career awareness courses. Feminists Northwest, 5038 Nicklas Pl N.E., Seattle WA 98105. ($3.00 + 50¢ for mail order).

Saturday's Child: 36 Women Talk About their Jobs. Susanne See. For junior high and high school students. J. Phillip O'Hara, Inc., 20 E. Huron St, Chicago, Ill, 60611 ($4.95; photos).

A Selected Annotated Bibliography -- Career Counselling: New Perspectives for Women and Girls. An invaluable resource on counselling and occupational choice, information on specific careers and how to go about getting jobs. Business and Professional Women's Foundation, 2012 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington D.C. 20036 ($5.00)

Sex Equality in Guidance Opportunities (SEGO). Mary Ellen Verheyden-Hilliard , American Personnel and Guidance Assn. National training program with information on Title IX, and techniques to insure sex-fair guidance programs and educational environment. Includes filmstrip "Chance to Choose" plus 100 print materials. Washington State coordinator is Georgie Kunkel (935-8663),for information on free workshops.

Women at Work (15 photos). Women of all ages are shown in non-traditional jobs. Change for Childran, 2588 Mission St, Room 226, San Francisco, Cal, 94110 ($4.20 for individuals, $6.70 for institutions).

Wren, C.G. "Changing Values 2: Women's Work." In World of the Contemporary Counsellor, pp. 41-62. Houghton, Mifflin, 1973. Lists questions counsellors should ask themselves before advising women.